

Andrew Jackson to Francis Preston Blair, April 19, 1841, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>TO FRANCIS P. BLAIR.

Hermitage, April 19, 1841.

My dear sir, Your letter of the 4th instant giving me the information of the death of the president is before me. I anticipated this result, from the causes you have named—he had not sufficient energy to drive from him the office hunters, and he was obliged to take stimulents to keep up the system—this with fatigue brought on the complaint which carried 0129 105 him hence. A kind and overruling providence has interfered to prolong our glorious Union and happy republican system which Genl. Harrison and his cabinet was preparing to destroy under the dictation of that profligate demagogue, Henry Clay. Their plans of a national Bank, a national debt, high protecting Tariff and assumption of state debts etc. and all prepared for the action of the called Session of Congress, by the death of Harrison is blown sky high, for surely Tyler with his speeches in the Senate and representative Halls never can approve a bill chartering a national Bank or for assuming the state debts—he is a true States rights man, by profession, and against a national debt, he cannot without abandoning all these professions of republican principles sanction by app[r]oval any of these measures and I therefore conclude that this act of an overruling providence was to preserve and perpetuate our happy system of republicanism and stay the corruptions of this combined clique who has got into power by deluding the people by the grossest slanders, corruptions, and vilest adoletry, of coons and hard cider—“ the Lord ruleth, let our nation rejoice. ”

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I wrote you I think on the 4th of March, advising you (amongst other things, that I had just recd. a letter from your lovely daughter, at Havanah, saying she was to meet you and Mrs. Blair at the Hermitage in May next. in yours of the 4th april you have not said whether you have received it—will we have the pleasure to see you at the Hermitage and when.

I have seen with indignation the course of Clay and his Federal tools in the senate with regard to you and Rives as Printers to the senate. They have passed a vote of dismissal, but that vote cannot set aside your contract, and Blackstone says “there is no wrong but there is a remedy,” and altho the senate cannot be sued, their agent who the senate by law has authorised to make contract with you, I should suppose can, or the court could enjoin the Secretary of the senate from giving the printing under your contract to any other, until it appeared you had neglected to comply with your contract. Be ready to perform your duty, continue to demand the printing from the Secretary of the senate, and if he fails to deliver, try your injunction, and a mandamus, the injunction to prohibit him from paying to others, and a mandamus to hand over the printing to you agreeable to your written contract—consider of this and take council. If Blackstone is good authority, there must be a remedy and a power somewhere to compel the parties to the contract to fulfill it.

Write me what you think will be Tyler course. Will he stick to a strict construction of the constitution or will he sell himself to Baal, or rather take that unprincipled swaggering demagogue, Clay, for his guide and worship him.

My whole Houshold join me in kind salu[ta]tions and good wishes to you and yours, your friend sincerely